

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, GW, US

SUBJ: IMPROVED GERMAN STUDENT FLOW TO US IS FORECAST

1. SUMMARY: IT IS PROBABLE THAT IT WILL SOON BECOME EASIER FOR GERMAN STUDENTS TO ATTEND AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. ACCORDING TO PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN CONGEN OFFICERS AND BADEN- WUERTTEMBERG MINISTER PRESIDENT DR. HANS FILBINGER, AND MINISTER OF CULTURE PROFESSOR DR. WILHELM HAHN, THE GERMAN FEDERAL LAW WHICH DEALS WITH FINANCIAL AID FOR GERMAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (BUNDESAUSBILDUNGSFOEDERUNGSGESETZ) WILL SOON BE CHANGED BY A DRAFT INTRODUCED VIA THE BUNDESRAT SO THAT THOSE WHO WISH TO STUDY IN AMERICA WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE OF UP TO DM 1,000 PER MONTH. END SUMMARY.

2. AT PRESENT ONLY THOSE STUDENTS WHO ATTEND UNIVERSITIES IN GERMANY AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (INCLUDING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USSR) ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH AID, AND ONLY IF THEY CAN

DEMONSTRATE THAT THEIR INTENDED PROGRAM OF STUDY IS NOT AVAILABLE IN EUROPE CAN THEY EXPECT TO RECIEVE BAFOG ASSISTANCE TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITIES OUTSIDE OF EUROPE.

3. AT A DINNER WITH AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND, FILBINGER SAID PRIVATELY THAT AN INCREASED FLOW OF GERMAN STUDENTS TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND MORE CONTACT WITH YOUNG AMERICANS OF THAT LEVEL WOULD BE POLITICALLY DESIRABLE IN THAT GREATER EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS WOULD BROADEN THEIR PERSPECTIVES AND DAMPEN THE LEFTIST-ORIENTED UNBALANCED CRITICISM OF THE US WHICH IS COMMON IN STUDENT CIRCLES HERE. HAHN, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE BUNDESRAT, SAID SEPARATELY THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE LAW WOULD BE ADVANCED BY B/W IN THE BUNDESRAT AND AFFIRMED THAT IT IS "VIRTUALLY CERTAIN" TO BE APPROVED.

4. UNDER THE PRESENT LEGISLATION GERMAN STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF THE BUNDESREPUBLIK CAN RECIEVE FINANCIAL AD FOR UP TO TWO YEARS. THE AMOUNT DEPENDS UPON FINANCIAL NEED, AND IS INTENDED TO HELP COVER BASIC LIVING AND STUDY COSTS. FUNDS FOR TRAVEL, AS SUCH, ARE NOT INCLUDED.

5. THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE STUDENT AID LAW WAS STIMULATED BY THE RECENT DEBATE IN THE B/W CABINET OVER THE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROPOSAL TO SEND THOUSANDS OF GERMAN STUDENTS TO STUDY IN AMERICA TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON OVER-CROWDED GERMAN UNIVERSITIES. THAT PROPOSAL, IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM, AT LEAST, IS NOT LIKELY TO BE REALIZED, WE ARE TOLD. SEVERAL B/W EDUCATORS HAVE TOLD US A CHANGE IN THE STUDENT AID LAW WOULD BE A MORE RELISTIC AND DESIRABLE STEP IN THE SAME DIRECTION FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW.

6. HAHN DID NOT PREDICT WHEN THE BUNDESRAT AND BUNDESTAG WOULD ACT. HIS ESTIMATE WAS THAT THE FLOW TO THE US WOULD INCREASE IN 1974-75 ACADEMIC YEAR, BUT THAT IT MIGHT BE 1975-76 BEFORE THE CREST WOULD BE FELT. THESE YEARS COINCIDE WITH THE HIGH-RATE-OF-BIRTH YEARS BEGINNING AFTER WAR II. HE PROVIDED NO STATISTICS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE NUMBERS WHICH HE BELIEVES WILL GO TO THE US, BUT WE EXPECT THIS TO COME OUT DURING THE BUNDESRAT DELIBERATIONS. RUCHTI

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